

Harry Toulmin to Andrew Jackson, June 22, 1814, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

HARRY TOULMIN¹ TO JACKSON.

¹ Harry Toulmin, judge of the superior court for the county of Washington, Mississippi Territory. See *American Historical Review*, II. 701. Fort Stoddert was on the Mobile River, a little south of the junction of the Alabama and the Tombigbee.

Fort Stoddert, June 22, 1814.

Dear Sir, A few days since I had the honour of receiving your favour of May 25th. I was very happy to receive it, not only on account of the information it contains, but because it affords me an opportunity of expressing to you the high and grateful sense I feel in common with my neighbours of the extraordinary and persevering exertions and military prowess of the citizens of Tennessee and their gallant commander. You have saved this country.

I am not sure, however, that we shall not be yet obliged to make another call on your patriotism.

It seems to me as if nothing could be done in this country but by the instrumentality of the sons of Tennessee. The Indians fled from you in the utmost dismay to the neighbourhood of Pensacola. Coll. Russel had marched with the 3d regt. to pursue them. He was to be joined by the militia under Coll. Nixon. Coll. Milton arrived from the hicory ground and ordered him back.² The Choctaws and Chickasaws went home in great disgust. The 3d regt. is gone to the hicory ground. The Creeks were depressed in spirit beyond all example. They were about to give themselves up: when a runner came from the

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Appalachicola to Pensacola, to inform them of the arrival of supplies from the British. They then became in a moment as insolent as they had been before submissive. Instead of surrendering, a party of 25 started out to collect cattle in the settlements east of Mobile river and bay. A few days since, four of them, having each a halter and a ear of corn, for the purpose of catching horses, called at a house about a mile from Peirces fort,³ and demanded some thing to eat, walking about at the same time with their tomahawks, in a style of much insolence. The family had no idea but that of being murdered, when a party of 8 or 10 from Peirce's came to the house, and

2 Homer V. Milton of Georgia and Gilbert C. Russell of Tennessee, successively colonels of the 3d Regt. U. S. A.

3 A small stockade on the east side of the Alabama River, some two miles east of Fort Mims.

attempted to disarm them. A scuffle ensued. One of the indian's guns was discharged: upon which our men fired, and killed three, and wounded the 4th who escaped. The people have all left that side of the river. I have this moment heard that 300 warriors have come into the fork of Tombigby and Alabama, and are making great destruction among the horses and cattle. I am not certain however of the fact.

As to the arrival of British supplies at Appalachicola, I have no doubt. Fifteen thousand stand of arms have been brought to that place in the Orphus a frigate of 44 guns, and 7000 in a schooner which carries 16 guns. The fact was stated by Captn. Hope of the schooner, and Captn. Millwood of the Herald to a gentleman of respectability from whom I obtained the information. 300 barrels of ball cartridges, some six pounders, some heavy metal, besides considerable quantities of blankets, strouds, and other Indian articles, were brought at the same time. About 300 troops arrived with these supplies, all of whom were marines, except 10 or 12 infantry officers, left for the purpose of training the Indians. The Indian who came to Pensacola with the news, explicitly and possitively stated to a person who conversed with him in the Seminole language, that these articles were deposited in

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the store of John Forbes and Co.y till a public store house was built on St. George's Island, at the mouth of Appalachicola river. Innerarity of Pensacola (who belongs to that house)⁴ denies that they have had any thing to do in the business. The schooner which came to the Appalachicola was dispatched to Pensacola for flour, where she purchased about 300 barrels brought from N. Orleans. She also took back with her a barge obtained for the purpose of carrying Indian supplies as far as possible up the Appalachicola river.

⁴ James Innerarity, chief clerk to the house of Panton, Leslie, Forbes, and Company. See *Amer. Hist. Rev.*, II. 701.

They run in a day or less from Pensacola bay to Appalachicola. This schooner, together with the Herald (of 22 guns) left Pensacola about a fortnight ago: they were to proceed immediately, together with the Orpheus, and the Anneconda, for the purpose of bringing from Jamaica a body of black troops to some part of Shores of the gulph of Mexico, but whether the Appalachicola, Pensacola, Mobile or the Mississippi is not known. The gentleman from whom I receive this information is an Irishman. Captn. Millwood of the Herald, is also an Irishman. They dined together at the house of Mr Helm, a native of England, and now a considerable merchant in Pensacola. Captn. M. observed to Mr Helm, as they were walking in the gallery after dinner, when talking of the projected expedition of the British: "Mr. Innerarity knows every thing relating, to this business. You ought to know it as well as he. But I am a soldier and dare not divulge it: but events will take place of which you are little aware."

I am rather apt to suspect that this establishment at Appalachicola is intended partly to secure the Inds: more easily, and partly to excite apprehensions in Georgia and S. Carolina: but that when the negro troops come from Jamaica, they will probably come to Pensacola or Mobile, and proceed with the Indians towards the Missi. settlements, whilst another force will operate by water. Unless some such scheme were in view; I do not see why the *marines* were brought. But I beg your pardon. I will leave conjectures and return to facts. On hearing the news from Appalachicola; M'Queen set out with about 25 warriors

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for that place, and Durgan with about 20. Forty or 50 more went in small parties. The number of Warriors in Pensacola was about 200: but Marshal, who is said to be a man of veracity, asserts, as I am told, that there are 1500 warriors on the Escambia. We are looking with much solicitude for Genl. Flournoy:5 as no one here seems to be possessed with authority to make any general arrangements for the protection of the country. At the present moment the British arrangements might easily be rendered abortive with the force which lies within a reasonable distance of this place: but it will soon become a much more difficult task. The 39th regt. are impatient for farther employment: but the daily expectation of seeing the general coming the district renders it difficult for their Coll. to determine how to act.

5 Brig.-Gen. Thomas Flournoy, who until recently had commanded in the 7th Military District, under Maj.-Gen. Thomas Pinckney.

Were some of our unemployed military force at Pensacola; it would not be difficult perhaps to reach the British depot at Appalachicola. There are 30 square rigged vessels, I am told, now lying in the bay, which on an emergency might I suppose be employed as transports. The Governor there admits that the British have landed: but pleads that it was on Indian land, where, he says, the Spanish govert: does not pretend to exercise jurisdiction! Your arrival at Pensacola was some time since generally expected, and by a few earnestly wished. Of the latter number, I am told, was Mr Helm, who went so far as to fit up a room for you and to have an elegant bed and bedstead prepared for the Tennessee conqueror.